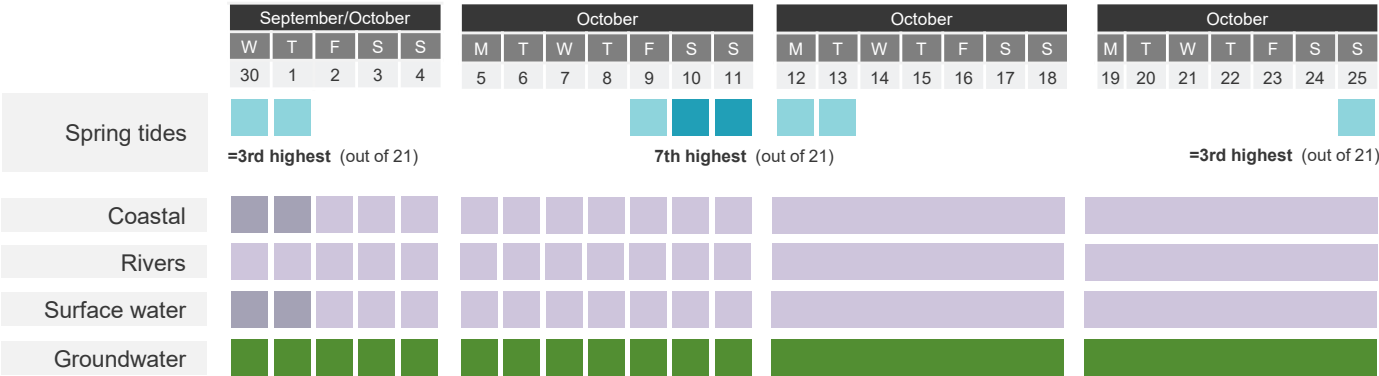


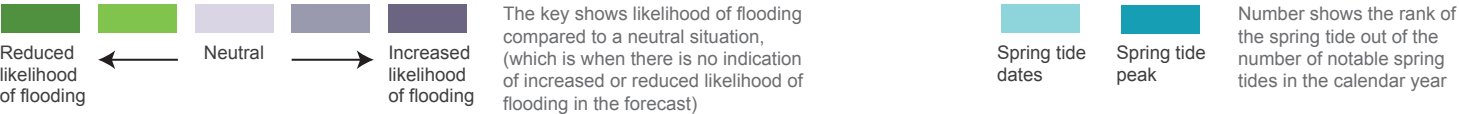
Flood Forecast for England and Wales

There is no strong signal for significant or severe flooding in this period. Localised inland or coastal flooding remains possible at times.



The forecast is made at a national scale to provide an overview for England and Wales.

Key



Headlines

- No strong signal for significant or severe flooding in this period
- Localised coastal and surface water flooding is possible at first

Coastal

- High spring tides reducing at first into October
- Unsettled weather initially brings the potential for localised coastal flooding impacts
- No strong signal for any particular period of coastal flood risk through the rest of October

Rivers and Surface Water

- Localised surface water impacts are possible from heavy rain initially, and at other times through October during wet spells
- Rivers are expected to remain at levels which are at or below normal throughout the period. Local, short-lived increases in river levels are possible during any periods of prolonged wet weather

Weather and Hydrological Assessment

- Wet and windy at first before becoming changeable for the start of Oct
- No strong signals for any particular weather type to dominate with periods of wet and windy weather and more settled, dry spells likely
- River flows and groundwater levels are at or below normal and this is expected to broadly continue despite some unsettled weather at times

Groundwater

- Groundwater levels are expected to continue to be normal or below normal
- There is a reduced likelihood of flooding from groundwater

Flood Outlook

30 September 2026 to 25 October 2026

Issued 25/09/2026

Next Issue 16/10/2026

**FLOOD
FORECASTING
CENTRE**

A working partnership between

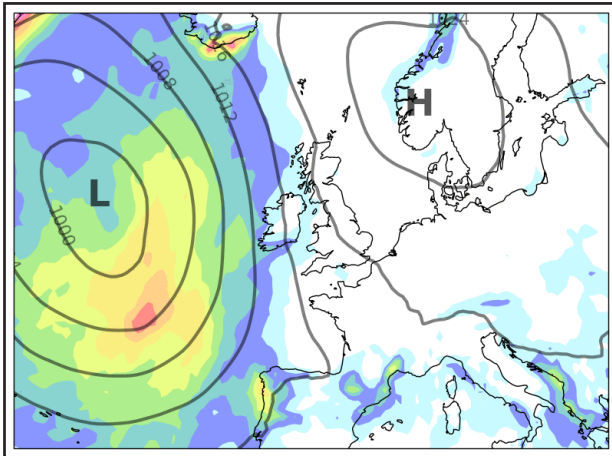


Flood Forecast

Weather Assessment

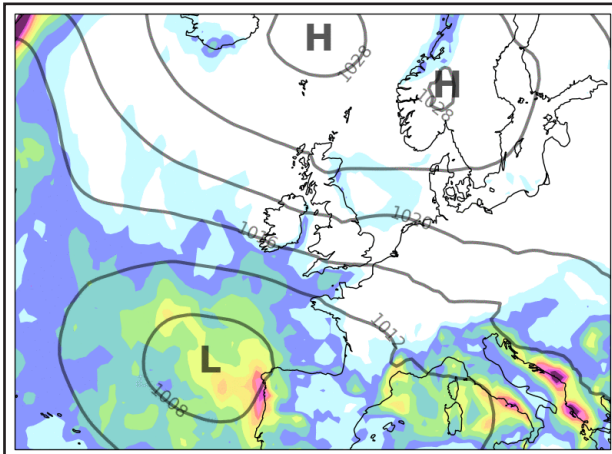
Hydrological Assessment

Q and A



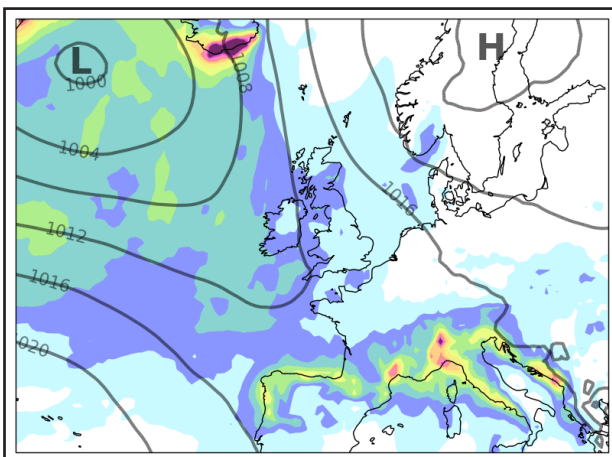
Early October

- Finely balanced between low pressure systems developing to the west or south-west of the UK and high pressure over Europe to the east or north-east
- Periods of wet and windy weather, particularly in the west and south-west
- Dry and settled spells also possible at times, more likely in the east and north-east



Mid October

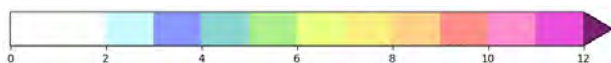
- Changeable with no strong signals for any particular weather pattern to dominate
- Wet and windy at times, but drier and more settled spells are also possible, more so further north.
- Forecast confidence is low



Late October

- Low forecast confidence for the second half of October
- Changeable with no strong signals for any particular weather pattern to dominate
- Likely wet and windy at times, but drier and more settled spells are also possible.

Key

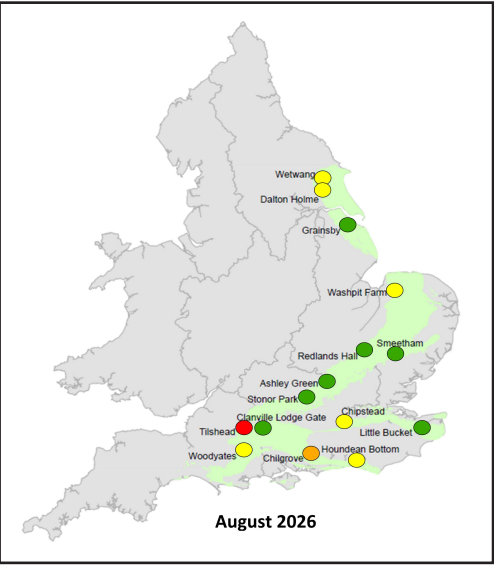


- Dominant pressure pattern shown by isolines
- Filled, coloured contours show typical daily precipitation distribution (mm/day)

Met Office 3-month outlook October to December

- There is double the normal chance of this period being wet overall
- 10% chance the season will be dry. This is x0.5 the normal chance
- 50% chance the season will be near average. This is x0.8 the normal chance
- 40% chance the season will be wet. This is x2.0 the normal chance

[View and download the full Met Office 3-month Outlook](#)



Observed groundwater levels

The map shows groundwater levels at indicator locations relative to historic levels for the month, where groundwater presents a flooding risk. For areas not shown, groundwater flood risk is very low.

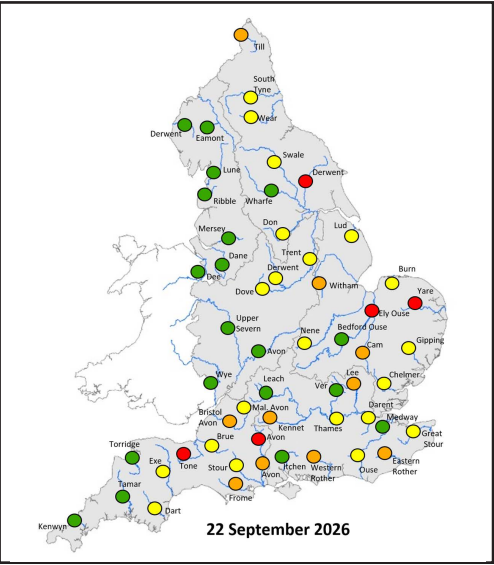
- Groundwater levels were mainly normal to below normal at the end of August
- Levels are expected to continue around normal or below, this is unlikely to be reversed by any spells of rain

Key

Exceptionally high	Notably high	Above normal	Normal	Below normal	Notably low	Exceptionally low	No data
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Geology of Aquifers

Chalk



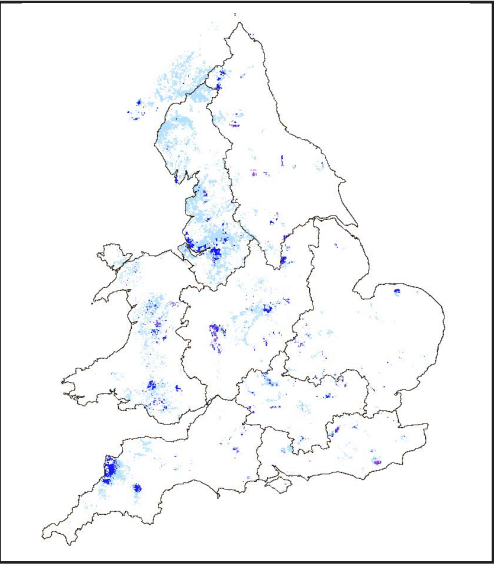
River flows

For mid-month issues the map shows monthly mean river flows for England and Wales, relative to historic means for the month. For end of month issues the map shows daily mean river flows for England only, relative to historic daily mean flows for that time of year.

- River flows have been mainly normal in western areas of England with mainly below normal across the rest of England
- River flows may increase at times during periods of wetter weather, and over time with successive bands of rain there may be a general increase in catchment sensitivity and river levels in places

Key

Exceptionally high	Notably high	Above normal	Normal	Below normal	Notably low	Exceptionally low	No data
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Sensitivity to rainfall

The map shows sensitivity to rainfall based on the subsurface water storage relative to the historic maximum of the 2007 to 2015 monthly mean values.

- Rainfall sensitivity was low for the majority of England and Wales on 25 September
- Sensitivity to rainfall is expected to remain mainly low, but may temporarily increase locally after spells of rain, with a general increase in sensitivity possible in areas affected by successive bands of rainfall

Key

High	Medium	Low
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Who is the Flood Outlook for?

The Flood Outlook is for planners who need to make decisions at a timescale of 6 to 30 days. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in the decision-making process.

What does the Flood Outlook show?

The Flood Outlook provides decision-makers with an overview of when an increased or reduced likelihood of flooding is forecast. The assessment is made at a national scale to provide an overview for England and Wales.

What is the difference between the Flood Outlook and the Flood Guidance Statement?

The assessments in the Flood Outlook and Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) are different. This is because at different lead times different information is available at different scales.

The Flood Outlook is a national overview product showing likelihood of flooding. It:

- gives a broad indication of coastal and inland flooding in the next 4 weeks over England and Wales, excluding the first 5 days
- uses a simpler likely/unlikely scale rather than the detailed FGS levels of likelihood
- gives an indication of possible flood impacts in the headline and summary text

The Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) is a five-day county risk-based product. It:

- shows the forecast level of flood risk for the coming 5 days for surface water, river, groundwater, and coastal flooding
- uses a detailed risk matrix approach, based on a combination of both likelihoods and impacts
- forecasts at a county and local authority scale

When is the Flood Outlook issued?

The Flood Outlook is issued twice a month, on a Friday.

What information is the Flood Outlook based on?

The Flood Outlook is based on a combination of weather and tidal forecasts, hydrological conditions and professional judgement. The confidence of the forecast is reflected in the flood likelihood given. For current river flow information please refer to the [Environment Agency](#) and [Natural Resources Wales](#)

We classify notable spring tides as when the astronomical tide level is predicted to reach 2.4m OD(N) or higher at North Shields.

Does the Flood Outlook cover the whole of the UK?

The Flood Outlook covers England and Wales. It assesses the overall conditions over England and Wales as a whole.

Can I access training on the Flood Outlook?

There are short [Flood Outlook training videos](#) available online. We can also provide webinar training to organisations on request.

Can I ask for more information on the Flood Outlook?

Yes. Contact the Flood Forecasting Centre via ffcenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or **0330 135 4400**

How can I receive the Flood Outlook?

You can sign up to access the latest outlook by subscribing through your [Flood Forecasting Centre user profile](#), or by visiting the Met Office's [Hazard Manager tool](#).

Acknowledgements

The images on the second and third pages have been provided courtesy of Met Office, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.